

Amendment "A"

Please withdraw claims 17, 24 and 30. The state of the claims following this
Amendment "A" is as follows:

Claim 1 (original). A controller for use with a capacitive mat, the controller configured to:

selectively electrically energize a first node of the capacitive mat in response to an input;

wait for a first predetermined period of time; and

electrically energize a second node of the capacitive mat after the first predetermined period time.

Claim 2 (original). The controller of claim 1, and wherein the controller is further configured to:

wait for a second predetermined period of time; and

electrically de-energize the first node and the second node after the second predetermined period of time.

Claim 3 (original). The controller of claim 2, and wherein the controller is further configured to electrically couple the first node and the second node to a ground reference potential during the electrically de-energizing.

Claim 4 (original). The controller of claim 1, and wherein the controller is further configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

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1 Claim 5 (original). The controller of claim 1, and wherein the controller is further
2 configured to:

3 electrically energize the first node at a predetermined positive potential; and

4 electrically energize the second node at a predetermined negative potential.

5
6 Claim 6 (original). A controller for use with a capacitive mat, the controller configured to:

7 selectively electrically energize a first node of the capacitive mat at a time
8 increasing positive potential in response to an input; and

9 electrically energize a second node of the capacitive mat at a time-increasing
10 negative potential contemporaneous with the electrically energizing the first node.

11
12 Claim 7 (original). The controller of claim 6, and wherein the controller is further
13 configured to:

14 electrically energize the first node at the time-increasing positive potential and the
15 second node at the time-increasing negative potential for a predetermined period of
16 time; and

17 electrically de-energize the first node and the second node after the
18 predetermined period of time.

19
20 Claim 8 (original). The controller of claim 7, and wherein the controller is further
21 configured to electrically couple the first node and the second node to a ground
22 reference potential during the electrically de-energizing.

23
24 Claim 9 (original). The controller of claim 6, and wherein the controller is further
25 configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

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1 Claim 10 (original). The controller of claim 6, and wherein the controller is further
2 configured such that each of the time-increasing positive potential and the time-
3 increasing negative potential includes an initial step-change in electrical potential relative
4 to a ground reference potential.

5

6 Claim 11 (original). A controller for use with a capacitive mat, the controller configured
7 to:

8 selectively electrically energize a first node of the capacitive mat at a first positive
9 potential and a second node of the capacitive mat at a first negative potential in
10 response to an input;

11 wait for a first predetermined period of time; and

12 electrically energize the first node at a second positive potential and the second
13 node at a second negative potential after the first predetermined period of time.

14

15 Claim 12 (original). The controller of claim 11, and wherein the controller is further
16 configured to:

17 wait for a second predetermined period of time; and

18 electrically de-energize the first node and the second node after the second
19 predetermined period of time.

20

21 Claim 13 (original). The controller of claim 12, and wherein the controller is further
22 configured to couple the first node and the second node to a reference potential during
23 the electrically de-energizing.

24

25 Claim 14 (original). The controller of claim 11, and wherein the controller is further
configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

1 Claim 15 (original). A sheet media support apparatus, comprising:
2 a capacitive mat including electrical first and second nodes, the capacitive mat
3 configured to electrically attractingly support a sheet media; and
4 a controller coupled to the first and second nodes of the capacitive mat and
5 configured to:
6 selectively electrically energize the first node at a first predetermined
7 potential in response to an input;
8 wait for a first predetermined period of time; and
9 electrically energize the second node at a second predetermined potential
10 after the first predetermined period of time.

11

12 Claim 16 (original). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the capacitive mat includes:
13 a first plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the first node; and
14 a second plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the second node.

15

16 Claim 17 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the capacitive mat
17 defines a substantially planar sheet media support surface.

18

19 Claim 18 (original). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the capacitive mat defines a
20 curved sheet media support surface.

21

22 Claim 19 (original). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the controller is further
23 configured such that the first predetermined potential is positive relative to the second
24 predetermined potential.

25

Claim 20 (original). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the controller is further
configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

1 Claim 21 (original). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the controller is further
2 configured to:

3 wait for a second predetermined period of time; and

4 electrically couple the first node and the second node to a ground reference
5 potential after the second predetermined period of time.

6

7 Claim 22 (original). A sheet media support apparatus, comprising

8 a capacitive mat including electrical first and second nodes, the capacitive mat
9 configured to electrically attractingly support a sheet media; and

10 a controller coupled to the first and second nodes of the capacitive mat and
11 configured to:

12 selectively electrically energize the first node at a step-change positive
13 potential and the second node at a step-change negative potential in response to
14 an input; and

15 electrically energize the first node at a time-increasing positive potential
16 and the second node at a time-increasing negative potential.

17

18 Claim 23 (original). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the capacitive mat includes:

19 a first plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the first node; and

20 a second plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the second node.

21

22 Claim 24 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the capacitive mat
23 defines a substantially planar sheet media support surface.

24

25 Claim 25 (original). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the capacitive mat defines a
curved sheet media support surface.

1 Claim 26 (original). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the controller is further
2 configured to:

3 electrically energize the first node at the time-increasing positive potential and the
4 second node at the time-increasing negative potential for a predetermined period of
5 time; and

6 electrically couple the first node and the second node to a ground reference
7 potential after the predetermined period of time.

8

9 Claim 27 (original). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the capacitive mat and the
10 controller are each further configured to cooperate with an imaging apparatus.

11

12 Claim 28 (original). A sheet media support apparatus, comprising:

13 a capacitive mat including electrical first and second nodes, the capacitive mat
14 configured to electrically attractingly support a sheet media; and

15 a controller coupled to the first and second nodes of the capacitive mat and
16 configured to:

17 selectively electrically energize the first node at a first predetermined
18 positive potential and electrically energize the second node at a first
19 predetermined negative potential in response to an input;

20 wait for a first predetermined period of time; and

21 electrically energize the first node at a second predetermined positive
22 potential and electrically energize the second node at a second predetermined
23 negative potential after the first predetermined period of time.

24

25 Claim 29 (original). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the capacitive mat includes:

 a first plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the first node; and
 a second plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the second node.

1 Claim 30 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the capacitive mat
2 defines a substantially planar sheet media support surface.

3

4 Claim 31 (original). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the capacitive mat defines a
5 curved sheet media support surface.

6

7 Claim 32 (original). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the controller is further
8 configured such that the second predetermined positive potential is of greater magnitude
9 than the first predetermined positive potential relative to a ground reference potential.

10

11 Claim 33 (original). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the controller is further
12 configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

13

14 Claim 34 (original). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the controller is further
15 configured to:

16 wait for a second predetermined period of time; and

17 electrically couple the first node and the second node to a ground reference
18 potential after the second predetermined period of time.

19

20 Claim 35 (original). A method of controlling a capacitive mat, comprising:

21 receiving an input

22 electrically energizing a first node of the capacitive mat at a first predetermined
23 potential in response to receiving the input;

24 waiting for a first predetermined period of time; and

25 electrically energizing a second node of the capacitive mat after the first
predetermined period of time.

1 Claim 36 (original). The method of claim 35, and further comprising:
2 waiting for a second predetermined period of time; and
3 electrically de-energizing the first node and the second node after the second
4 predetermined period of time.

5

6 Claim 37 (original). The method of claim 36, and further comprising electrically coupling
7 the first node and the second node to a ground reference potential during the de-
8 energizing.

9

10 Claim 38 (original). The method of claim 35, and wherein electrically energizing the first
11 node includes electrically energizing the first node at a positive predetermined potential
12 relative to the second predetermined potential.

13

14 Claim 39 (original). The method of claim 35, and further comprising electrically
15 attractively supporting a sheet media using the capacitive mat.

16

17 Claim 40 (original). The method of claim 35, and wherein receiving the input includes
18 receiving the input from a controller of an imaging apparatus.

19

20 Claim 41 (original). A method of controlling a capacitive mat, comprising:
21 receiving an input;
22 electrically energizing a first node of the capacitive mat at a time-increasing
23 positive potential in response to receiving the input; and
24 electrically energizing a second node of the capacitive mat at a time-increasing
25 negative potential contemporaneous with the electrically energizing the first node.

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1 Claim 42 (original). The method of claim 41, and further comprising:

2 continuing electrically energizing the first node and the second node for a
3 predetermined period of time; and

4 electrically de-energizing the first node and the second node after the
5 predetermined period of time.

6

7 Claim 43 (original). The method of claim 41, and wherein electrically de-energizing the
8 first node and the second node includes electrically coupling the first node and the
9 second node to a reference potential.

10

11 Claim 44 (original). The method of claim 41, and wherein receiving the input includes
12 receiving the input from a controller of an imaging apparatus.

13

14 Claim 45 (original). The method of claim 41, and further comprising electrically
15 attractively supporting a sheet media using the capacitive mat.

16

17 Claim 46 (original). The method of claim 41, and wherein:

18 electrically energizing the first node includes electrically energizing the first node
19 at a step-change positive potential prior to the time-increasing positive potential in
20 response to receiving the input; and

21 electrically energizing the second node includes electrically energizing the
22 second node at a step-change negative potential prior to the time-increasing negative
23 potential.

24

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1 Claim 47 (original). A method of controlling a capacitive mat, comprising:
2 receiving an input;
3 electrically energizing a first node of the capacitive mat at a first positive potential
4 and a second node of the capacitive mat a first negative potential in response to
5 receiving the input;
6 waiting for a first predetermined period of time; and
7 electrically energizing the first node at a second positive potential and the second
8 node at a second negative potential after the first predetermined period of time.
9

10 Claim 48 (original). The method of claim 47, and further comprising:
11 waiting for a second predetermined period of time; and
12 electrically de-energizing the first node and the second node after the second
13 predetermined period of time.
14

15 Claim 49 (original). The method of claim 48, and wherein electrically de-energizing the
16 first node and the second node includes electrically coupling the first node and the
17 second node to a reference potential.
18

19 Claim 50 (original). The method of claim 47, and wherein receiving the input includes
20 receiving the input from an imaging apparatus controller.
21

22 Claim 51 (original). The method of claim 47, and further comprising electrically
23 attractively supporting a sheet media using the capacitive mat.
24

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Claim 52 (original). An apparatus for supporting a sheet media, comprising:
capacitive mat means for electrically attractingly supporting the sheet media; and
mat controller means for selectively electrically energizing the capacitive mat
means in a predetermined sequential order in response to an input.

Claim 53 (original). The apparatus of claim 52, and wherein the capacitive mat means includes:

an electrical first node and an electrical second node;
a first plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the first node; and
a second plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the second node.

Claim 54 (original). The apparatus of claim 52, and wherein the mat controller means is configured such that electrically energizing the capacitive mat means in the predetermined sequential order includes at least one of a step change increase in electrical potential, a period of time-increasing electrical potential, or a period of substantially constant electrical potential.

Claim 55 (original). The apparatus of claim 52, and wherein the mat controller means is configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

(End of Amendment "A".)

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